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MOZUYA-SAN GYAKUSOUSURU CHAPTER 14

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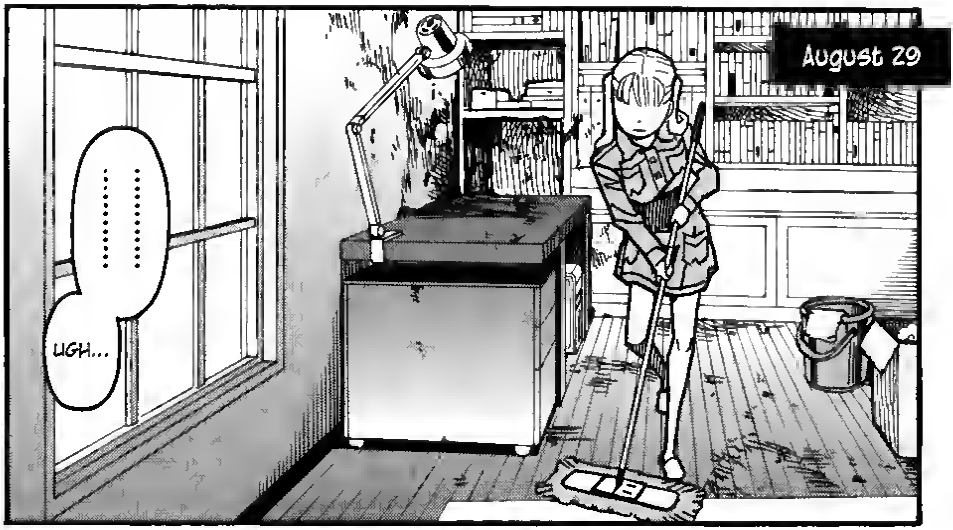
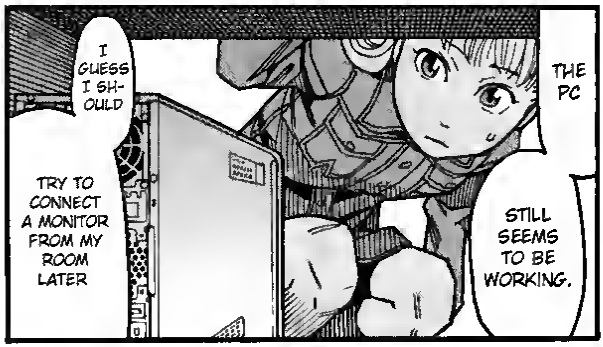
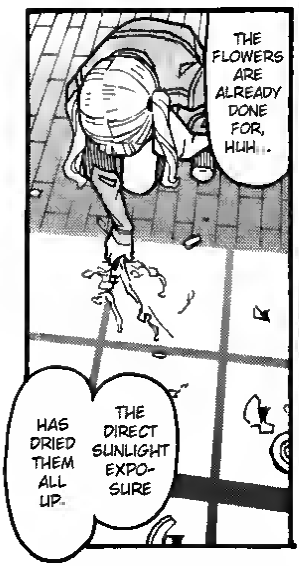
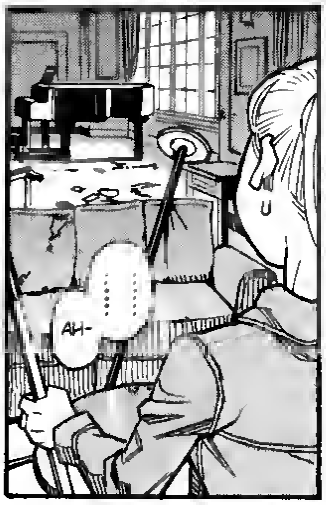
Chapter 14: Mozuya-san, I, and the End of Summer ④


August 29
UGH...
.....


I GUESS I SH-OULD
TRY TO CONNECT A MONITOR FROM MY ROOM LATER
THE PC
STILL SEEMS TO BE WORKING.

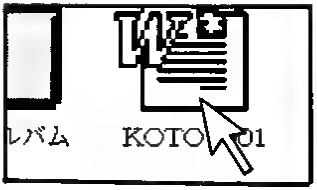
I DIDN'T THINK I'D END UP CLEANING THE MESS I MADE.
THAT WO-MAN,
I GUESS SHE WAS SO DESPERATE TO FIND ME, THAT SHE NEGLECTED THE HOUSE AND EVERYTHING ELSE...

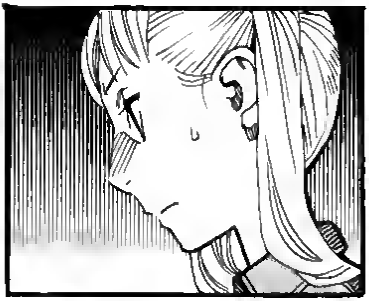

THE FLOWERS ARE ALREADY DONE FOR, HUH...
THE DIRECT SUNLIGHT EXPO-SURE
HAS DRIED THEM ALL UP.

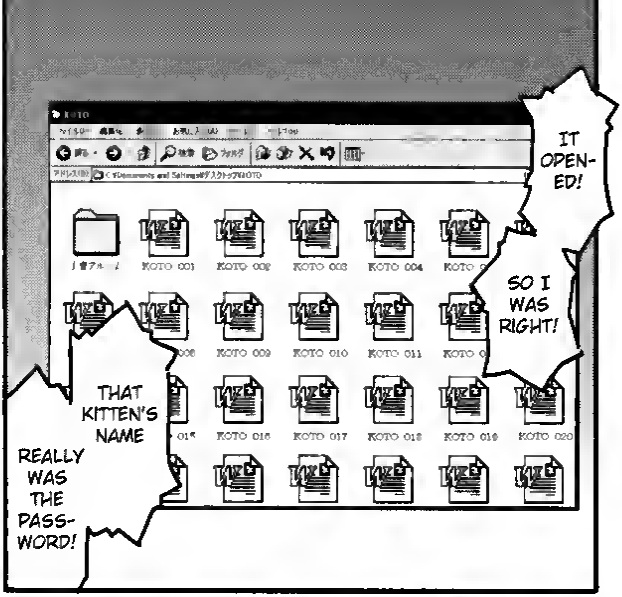

AH-
.....

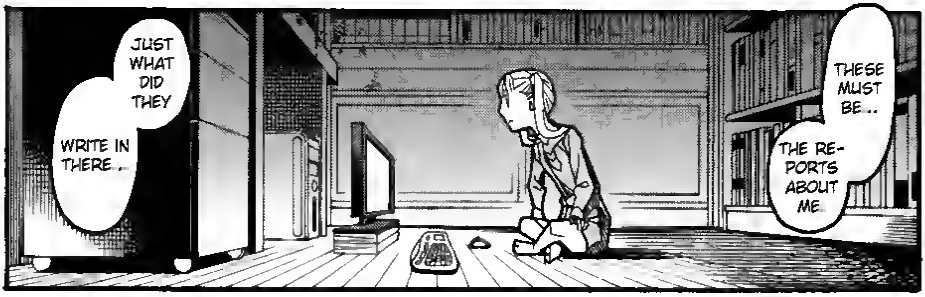
FLOWERS, HUH?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
MAYBE I SHOULD LAY DOWN A BOUQUET
FOR THAT LITTLE FOX...
I don't know where she's been buried though.
SFX: RUSTLE
.....

だだだだだ
SFX: DASH
THAT MUST BE-
THE NAME OF
THE LITTLE KITTEN I PICKED UP BACK THEN-
きゅ きゅ きゅ
YOSH!
SFX: SCREW SCREW
どん
...I REMEMBERED!
SFX THUD
LUG IN
KU
RO!
Please enter your password.
* * * * * * * * * *
CHI
BI
ポン
SFX FLICKER









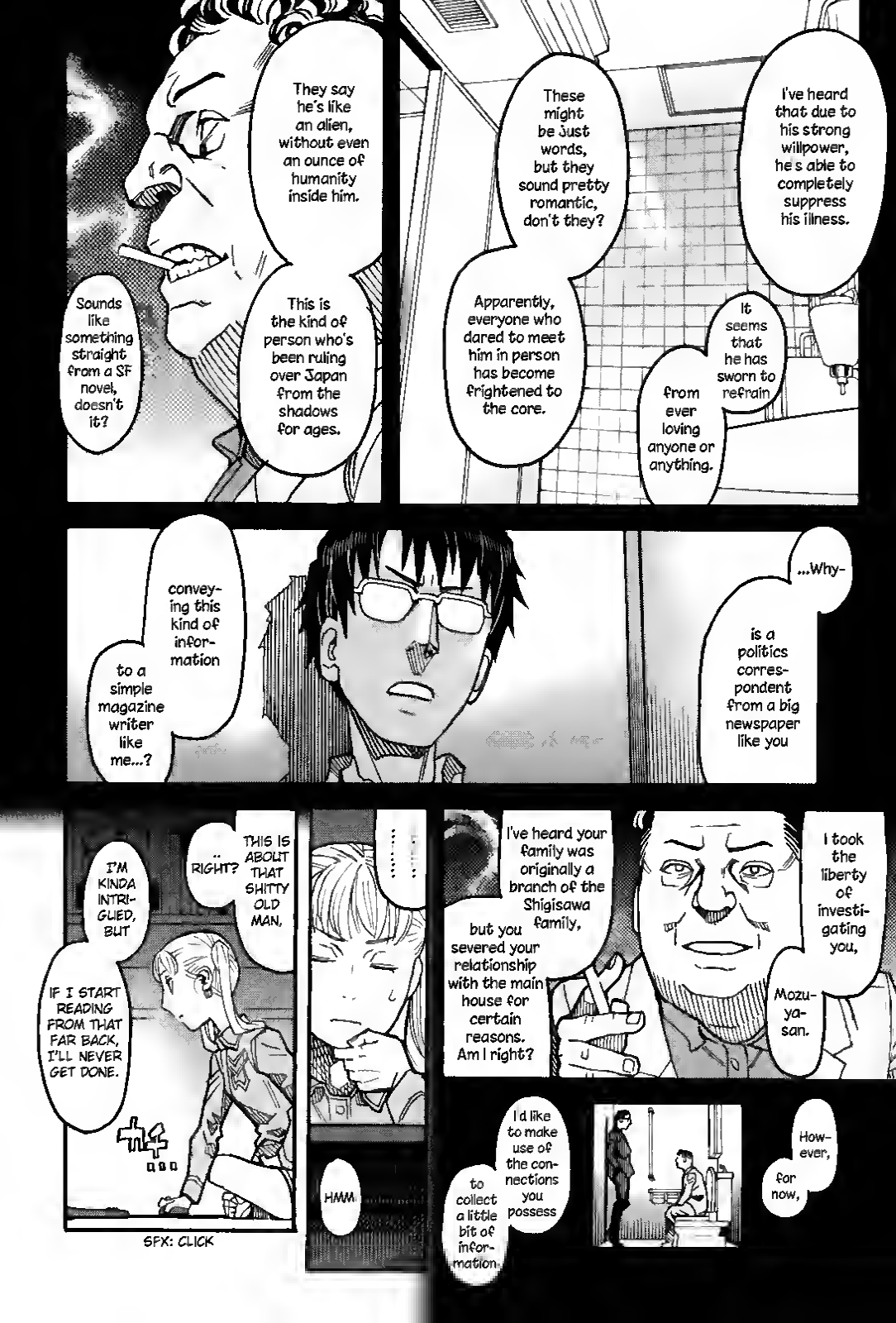
I met this Koutou guy after being referred to him by the Editor-in-chief Adachi.

Even if you call me a fighter...
I just write what ought to be written, that's all.
You might lack the old-fashioned fighting spirit of the social justice dissidents of former times, but you are still a man of integrity, isn't that right?
Anyway,
don't be shy and drink!

I've heard lots of things about you from Adachi-chan!
Like how you're so young and already a real fighter!?
Oh,
so you're that Mazuya-kun?

...Well then,
let's get down to business shall we?
ガチャ
Let's go to another bar! C'mon, follow me!!
Err, um...
We're far from done!
The night is still young!!
Are you alright?
Um, hello?
SFX: CLACK
...Shigisawa Taikan.
Do you know that name?
Before long, he was adopted by the Shigisawa Zaibatsu.
His real name is unknown. He's an American of German descent
who came to Japan together with the GHQ straight after the war and soon became a naturalized citizen.
Today he is known for operating behind the curtains as the greatest mastermind and power broker of the financial world.
.....
Why?
TL NOTE: THE ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCE

There's a popular rumor,
about that guy's mental health.
It's being said that he might suffer from Joseph Tsundere's Bipolar Personality Disorder,
commonly just known as the Tsundere Syndrome.
Is that a problem?
Well.....
It's a big problem, indeed.
You'll end up beating up the person you love.
Under normal circumstances, you are hardly able to create any kind of trusting relationship with other people.
However, from his position at the center of the financial world, he's been able to lay out a powerful net of connections, which he continues to maintain to this very day.
The problem is,
that these connections he maintains are fundamentally different from relationships of mutual trust that are born of feelings like empathy and pothos
He's extremely calculating, and his relationships with other people are based on nothing but emotionless mutual interest.
This is probably exactly the reason why his peers continue to trust him
He is like an accurate clockwork that does not get swayed by any kind of emotions.
Did you know?
That even though Shigisawa Taikan suffers from the Tsundere Syndrome, he's been free of symptoms for the last few decades?


They say he's like an alien, without even an ounce of humanity inside him.
This is the kind of person who's been ruling over Japan from the shadows for ages.
Sounds like something straight from a SF novel, doesn't it?
I've heard that due to his strong willpower, he's able to completely suppress his illness.
These might be just words, but they sound pretty romantic, don't they?
Apparently, everyone who dared to meet him in person has become frightened to the core.
It seems that he has sworn to refrain from ever loving anyone or anything.
...Why- is a politics correspondent from a big newspaper like you
conveying this kind of information to a simple magazine writer like me...?
I took the liberty of investigating you, Mozu-ya-san.
I've heard your family was originally a branch of the Shigisawa family, but you severed your relationship with the main house for certain reasons. Am I right?
However, for now, I'd like to make use of the connections you possess to collect a little bit of information.
THIS IS ABOUT THAT SHITTY OLD MAN, ..RIGHT?
I'M KINDA INTRIGUED, BUT IF I START READING FROM THAT FAR BACK, I'LL NEVER GET DONE.
SFX: CLICK
HMM

MMN
THIS IS BORING, SO LET'S SKIP TO THE INTERESTING PARTS.
SFX: CLICK
got captured, and
ntacting the outs
assaulted over an
... WHA-
EHH!?
SFX: CLICK CLACK
you sing for us like a good little bird?
...Well then.
How about
SFX: PRESS
That guy was so honest.
he made a complete fool of himself.
Destroying your family will be just like child's play.
With the information we obtained from him, that is.
No matter how many times you ask me,
it's futile!
We captured that guy long ago.
Don't get the wrong idea.
I don't know anything about that Koutou so.....

To Edogawa-san
MT
Well then,
do you know what this is?
Do you have any idea what will happen
if I don't re-turn soon?
Ah, about that.
Looks like you've taken pre-cautions, huh?
Oi, take it out.
Wha-
.....
Well then,
let's get serious.
But let me warn you.
One wrong answer, and it's over in an instant.
What did you say?
But it's right here.
How did you.....
That should've been safely locked inside a bank safe.....
Well.
if we were living in a safe and peaceful world, it'd be pretty inconceivable though, I guess.
First, about this.
So, it seems that in case you went missing,
you planned to leak various things to everyone in the mass media.
To Edogawa-san

However, there's one question I have.
Isn't there something important missing here?
That illness our boss suffers from.
Why is there not a single word about that in here?
.....I never intended to make... his illness public in the first place
...What did you say?
At present, the Tsundere Syndrome is an illness for which there is no effective cure.
Moreover, it is a hereditary condition so those who suffer from it bear no responsibility whatsoever for carelessly contracting the disease.
Publically announcing that someone is suffering from an illness which they were born with and thus are completely blameless for contracting,
such kind of speech unfairly discriminates against said person and exposes them to ridicule. This is something that one shouldn't do, no matter the circumstances.
That's what I believe in.
Whether that person be an athlete, an actor, a politician, an ordinary citizen, or even

Are you saying
So, what's your point?
that you're pitying our boss?
they should be treated the same... no matter who they are.
an infamous power broker of the financial world,
There's one exception though, and that is known criminals who ought to take responsibility for their sins.
I had no compelling evidence against you guys and hesitoted that's what got me into this mess.
So I'm just
gritting my teeth at my own foolishness, that's all.
Sorry to say this at this point, but,
actually we haven't been given permission to kill you
It's astounding how naive you are.
...This is really funny!
Pff-
.....
Ku ku ku ku!
Wow, how rude!
Oi!
Did you record that just now?
Ye-ah,
clearly.

I'll pass the recording to my superiors and await their judgment.
If we end up letting you live,
then let's celebrate it with me treating you to a drink as an apology.
.....
.....
What's with this all of a sudden .....?
Eh?
Right.
About what I just said...
Nonono nono, hold on! Wait a second!!
Um, let me think about it for a bit...

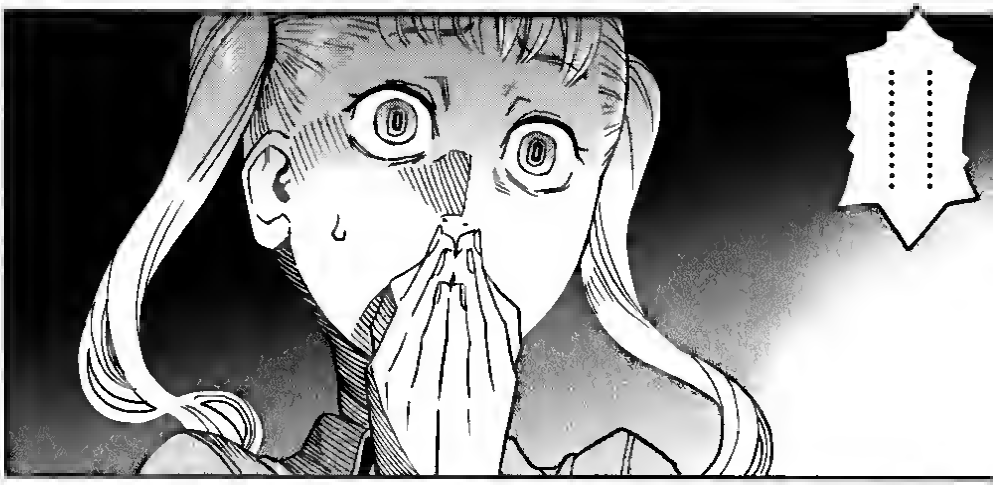
"I'll help you."
"And I promise that nobody will lay a finger on you anymore."
.....
However,
there is one condition.
Look, over there.
The girl who's sitting all alone on the swing
That girl?
Which one...?
Ah, yeah that's true... Look!
It's that girl.
Sure.
...don't mind.
Can I go closer and talk to her for a bit?
Um-
She's just like a doll!
...Oh, wow!

Ah!
and so.....
but then she made a big ruckus,
She was to be adopted at one point,
SFX DASH
Eh?
When she was smaller, there weren't any problems with her.
But lately it seems like she has begun to show symptoms of her illness.
She's a really pitiful girl.
たたた
Hey.....!
He-
Are you alright!?
SFX DASH
Dear...
I guess, I...
did something bad.
It's like
I suddenly surprised her or something.

Is this some kind of whim of yours?
To go out of your way to want to talk with me in private...
.....
Your wife...
Yeah, fortunately she is fine.
Is she well?
I'm glad to hear that.
You practically eloped and broke off contact with the main family just to be together with that woman after all
You better treasure her
A thinly veiled threat.

Shigisawa Tarkan
Is he really the monster the rumors spoke of?
However, as strange as it sounds, I didn't feel any kind of spite or arrogance in his voice.
It's like his voice was completely void of human emotion.
Also,
the amount of money you specified is far too high in the first place.
definitely won't accept any money for her living expenses.
... What?
wife
seems to have taken a liking to that girl.
...That's why I plan to accept your conditions.
However...
No,
that won't do.
You will accept the money,
no matter what.
In return for pressuring you into this, I have to pay you properly.
The amount is very adequate for a parasite like her.

The condition for Misao's and my safety,



was taking in and adopting his granddaughter, Shigisawa Koto.

I'll properly raise your granddaughter with all I've got!!
However, that ...-
I don't need a single yen of your dirty money!
Listen!
Do you think your granddaughter will become happy like this!?
"Parasite" !?
Stop fucking kidding me!!
SFX: SLAM

Shigisawa Taikan suddenly seemed to be smitten by some kind of pain,
...At that MOMENT,
which distorted his face into a huge grimace.
It took me some time to realize
that this was actually...
his smile
...“Happiness”?
What the hell are you talking about?

What
It looks like you're
really desperate to prove the goodness and virtue of your philosophy to other people.
But think about it once more.
Exactly for whose sake are you doing this?
It makes you feel good about yourself, doesn't it?
did you-
No matter what you say, in the end,
you just accepted that parasite for the money and your personal safety.
This fact
is following you around like a shadow you can't escape.
It's ironic, but in the end,
your behavior is just serving yourself, protecting your oh-so-noble reasoning.
Take this as advice,
and also as a prediction of the future.

If you want to tell me that happiness lies in front of that righteousness of yours,
then you better hurry up and prove it.
SFX: GULP
Are you really alright with that, Misao?
... Eh?
When today's formalities are over, that girl will legally become our daughter.
So, about that...

I've been punched, kicked, and had heaps of other stuff done to me by that girl. But...
Until now,
After her tantrums, she would always, without fail,
continue to peek at me from afar.
And then she would have such a guilty
and lovable look in her eyes,
.....
Besides, she's really a good girl at heart!
When she hit me it was obvious that she was going easy on me
Sigh.
that my chest would go all KYUN~ and-
Ahhh, I don't even know anymore!
This must be love, right!? Love!!
True love!!
But, you know.
At the same time I feel really bad for her.
If I was a little girl her age,
I'd probably want to get all worked up and let myself get spoiled too.
But because of her illness,
she has started building a wall between herself and others

That's why I'd like to hug her tight and close
and just tell her that I love her
and that everything will work out.
I'm sorry,
really...
カチ...
SFX: CLICK
Misao.

Don't apologize, Tatsuki-san.
キュ…
I'm fine already.
SFX: SQUEEZE
From now on, both of us will make sure that girl becomes happy, so...
THAT MUST BE THE DAY I FIRST MET THAT SHITTY OLD MAN!
AND THEN, I.....
SFX: VRRRRRRR
?
"From Shigisawa Taikan", it says.
"I have taken appropriate measures".
...What's that about?
AH!
.....
Then, we finally welcomed her in the new home we would live in together as a family.
It was on that very day.

You bet I will!
... Eh?
The car, those pretty clothes, and even this new house,
every single thing here was bought with my money, wasn't it?
Umm, you see.
This will be your real home from now on, so please
don't be shy
and make yourself at home...
So let me make this clear.
If you piss me off or fail to show me respect,
I'll throw you out on the streets in no time.
You guys are my servants.
Servants, got it?
Um-
Err-
SFX: CLATTER CLATTER
Please wait.
I'll carry your luggage
I know how greedy you guys are.
You just want to steal it, don't you?
Don't bother.

!?
SFX: CRASH
Are you alright? ...Um-
C'mon, let me see that injury!!
I'm fine! Fine, totally fine, got it?
It doesn't hurt, okay?
Beneath your friendly facade you guys actually loathe me after all.
Just so you know,
if you try to act all familiar with me, then-
But you're about to cry, so-
I'm not crying!!
I'm not crying at all, you moron! Stu-pid!!
SFX: CLATTER CLATTER
It was obvious
that she was putting up an act in order to distance herself from us more than before.
Just what has happened with her in the last few days ...?
Wha-What should we do, Tatsuki-san!?
C-C-C-C-Calm down, Misao!!
What's this about!? Just what the heck's up with this!?
She's probably just a bit nervous because she's not used to her new environment yet, so.....
That girl, she's
...I can't hold it any-more-
SOOO OOOO CUTE!!

I can't really explain, but when you see a girl like that, don't you just want to pat her head all over, glomp her from behind and tickle her sides!?
I mean, a little girl like her being all stubborn and pretending to be tough, don't you think that's just super cute!?
Hah!?
What she said just now was so moe! Moe!!
Don't you? Don't you?
Right? Right...!?
Er- Well...
That girl's behavior is quite strange.
Any- ways, for the time being
we should discuss our future education plan with the expert we were referred to.
...UGH-
Ah- Well...
As long as you're happy
I don't mind, but...
So how should I spoil and seduce her little by little?
Yes, first I'll serve her a deluxe ham- burger with cream sauce for supper!
I can't wait!
SFX: UFUFUFUFUFUFUFUFUFU

Direct displays of affection,
such as hugging, patting her head, and especially kissing her and the like,
are abso-lutely for-bidden.
...Eh? But-
Earlier you said that we could be more forceful like this.....
Before you legally adopted her as your daughter, it was necessary to make a great effort to show her your affection or at least make her feel at ease.
But now that you've adopted her, you'll have to make her learn about interpersonal relation-ships. This will take a long time.
Her welcome party yesterday turned into a big brawl in the end, didn't it?
... Eh- Uu-
At first, that's fine and all.
But there's no way you can continue to live like that for the years to come, right?
But she's only five years old!
Now's the time we have to be even gentler to her and spoil her even more!
You could also say she's not even one year away from entering grade school.
Koto-san possesses an extraordinarily high IQ and her mental development is also fast, isn't it?

Well then.
First of all,
you should at all costs avoid calling her by name.
to draw a line between yourselves,
Good morning,
...Ojou-sama.
Ojou-sama?
Ah-
Umm, well about that-
To be honest, we're really just lowly servants who couldn't pay our living expenses without your money, Ojou-sama!
So it's just natural for us to be respectful to you
and to abase ourselves...
Hmph.
Thinking about it,
well.
It's common sense, I guess.
It's kind of
a strange phenomenon
Purposefully acting like you love them towards someone you have no affection for
This is something that a large number of people probably have experienced to some extent
It's not a very nice thing to do, but
it makes your relationships with other people progress without much disturbance.

However, what if we assume you had to act like you have no feelings for someone you loved very much?
All you'd achieve is hurting both yourself and the person you lie to, as well as recklessly worsening your relationship.
However that being said, those who wish to confront a tsundere directly, have no choice but to become their mirror image and act like a tsundere themselves.
Osou-sama, how is it?
Is today's dinner to your liking?
I-I-It's not a big deal or anything, okay!!
You actually did a shoddy job with cooking and used cheap ingredients as well, didn't you!?
... Ah, yes!
Ehh !?
You guys are that devious, so c'mon!
The truth is that you've been having better tasting meals for yourselves all this time, right!?
That's right! Exchange your meals with mine.
Mn
GH
GU
What happened, Osou-sama?
N-N-Nothing!
This is nothing, did you hear me!?
SFX: CRACK CRACK
Just as planned.
Making her eat the eggplants and peppers worked out well.
I see.
Look like you're slowly becoming accustomed to your daughter's treatment.

So how about you eat together with us teachers?
Koto-chan, your Mom and Dad aren't coming, huh?
I'm eating alone because I want to!
bought some rice balls at the store, so I'll be fine!!
No thanks!
Do you really think I'd eat a shabby, nasty looking bento like that!?
Eh?
Um-
SFX: MUNCH MUNCH
Of course there were repeated failures as well.
SIGN: SPORTS MEET
SFX: MUNCH
Excuse us, Oosou-sama!!
Oosou-sama! Oosou-sama!!
We dawdled around, so we're late!!
But we brought this bento,
so let's eat it together over there!!

ガ・ガラ
ガラガラガラ
!?
SFX: CLATTER CLATTER THUD
SFX: SCRAPE
What took you so long!!?
You're late!!
Isn't it the opposite?
If we had come earlier, then she would've been so happy that we wouldn't have been able to pick her up at all, don't you think?
Eh?
I thought if we came a bit late and annoyed her just a little,
we'd still be able to eat together like normal...
...What a complete failure.
Looks like we made her too mad.
SFX: DASH

Ah geez,
this has really tired me out...
You think so?
I guess that's how it is then...
Hmm...
And this is my very own personal problem.
If that happened,
then I...
In any case, if I tried acting like a parent and showered her with affection somehow,
would this parent-like feeling eventually build up inside of me?
Just what does it mean to be a parent?
Especially since we are not related by blood, that kind of genuine feeling just isn't there for me.
SFX: RUMMAGE

They banned smoking in the park some time ago.
As expected from someone of such lowly status,
you have no manners at all.
Sorry... about that.
Hm-ph.
すぅ...
SFX: TAKE
.....
Ah.
Even if you say things like that,
on the inside you're completely different, aren't you?
ぎっ
Eh?
.....
Unlike that constantly chattering potato woman,
you're always being taciturn.
SFX: CREAK
In reality, you think of me as a noisy, troublesome, shitty little brot who causes nothing but problems, isn't that right?
It's true, isn't it?
Ahh, if I could just get her money already...
"If I could just live a quiet life without having that worthless parasite around...". That's what you're thinking, aren't you?

Those words were leaving my mouth without much difficulty.
...Well, I guess you're right...
More or less.
but try to accept it as a self-evident fact and hide it on top of the shelf in your heart.
So please don't avert your eyes from this truth and deny this,
but in the end that girl is a stranger to you. A random child with a mental illness, nothing more.
This might seem like a horrible thing to say,
As for acting like you don't care about the girl despite loving her,
For you see,
this is exactly what we were advised to do by our expert.
please build a shelf in your heart*.
*TL NOTE: THIS IS A POPULAR PHRASE FROM THE MANGA BLAZING TRANSFER STUDENT. IT LITERALLY MEANS TO HIDE SOMETHING ON AN IMAGINARY SHELF TO AVOID HAVING TO THINK ABOUT IT.
After all, no matter what they do, two people will never be able to fully understand each other.
However, if you assume this to be true,
then you should be able to find a distance between each other that both parties will find desirable.
And yet,
the face she made after hearing my words was...

Ah!
SFX: DASH
.....
Is this... your curse?
Shigisawa Taikan,
My sun had gone down and it just wouldn't rise again.
But now I didn't even know what's right or wrong anymore.
Just a little while ago, I was set on walking down the path I believed in.
Chapter 14 / End

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